GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2019
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
TREATMENT OF GOITRE
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a)whether the studies conducted in Tripura and Bengal show the incidences of goitre;

(b)if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c)the concrete steps being taken by the Government to ensure proper treatment for goitre?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): Studies conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, State Health Directorates, Indian Council of Medical Research and recently by National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad during the year 2003 have indicated that the prevalence of Goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders in all the States including the North-Eastern States and West Bengal has declined as a result of iodized salt consumption. The extent of reduction was relatively more in the districts of North-Eastern States where higher levels of awareness about iodized salt as well as higher consumption of iodized salt were observed during the course of study. However, no impact evaluation study has been conducted in the State of Tripura.

(c) In order to prevent and control the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDDS), the Government is implementing National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme in the country. Under the Programme, the Government is providing financial assistance for establishment of IDD control Cell and IDD monitoring laboratory to the States/UTs for effective implementation of National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme. The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are also undertaken by Central/State Governments.

All the States/UTs except Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh have fully banned the sale of edible non-iodized salt. Office of the Salt Commissioner, functioning under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the Government of India, is engaged in the planning of production and distribution of iodized salt to meet the required demand in the country.